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The appointment came as a complete surprise to Bolz. On the day preceding his appointment, he had discussed party affairs with the second chairman of the NDPD, ex-Major Heinrich Homann. On this occasion neither man had mentioned the possibility of Bolz's appointment to the assignment of foreign minister although they discussed the possibility of procuring a better government position for State Secretary Alfred Wunderlich. Wunderlich, an engineer, is said to have desired to be made Minister of Engineering Industry or of heavy industry. Bolz told Homann, who congratulated him on his promotion, that he owed this promotion to Semenov. Previously Professor Hermann Kestner had been mentioned in connection with the filling of the vacancy at the top of the Foreign Ministry. However, when Grotewohl asked Semenov about his opinion on Kestner's appointment, Semenov, allegedly, replied that he preferred to keep Kestner in reserve. Bolz' sudden appointment to the rank of Foreign Minister was explained on the ground that it was expected that Moscow would soon take steps to strengthen the sovereignty of the East German government. The wearing of the mantle of proclamation of this increased power only required the existence of an East German Foreign Minister.

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